

I claim:

1. A method for creating a computer file readable by a pagination program for generating an output, comprising:

5 accessing a computer database;

identifying a record stored in said computer database;

10 adding a field directive to said record, wherein said field directive contains an instruction to said pagination program directing how said pagination program will format said output;

retrieving said record from said computer database;

15 adding computer code to said record to create said computer file, wherein said computer code makes said computer file readable by said pagination program; and

transferring said computer file to said pagination program where said output can be generated.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a first recipient of said output;

obtaining said first recipient's address information;

20 determining if said first recipient has a characteristic, said characteristic consisting of at least one of: a bad account, a closed account, a competitor, a prior recipient, a non-orderer, or an undesirable physical location;

terminating transfer of said output to said first recipient at said address if said first recipient has said characteristic; and

transferring said output to said first recipient if said first recipient does not have said  
characteristic.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

5 identifying a first recipient of said output;

obtaining said first recipient's address information;

determining a number of orders made by said first recipient;

determining a monetary value of orders made by said first recipient;

determining a recency of orders made by said first recipient;

10 storing said number of orders;

storing said monetary value of orders;

storing said recency of orders;

calculating a first set of statistics regarding said number of orders, monetary value of  
orders, and recency of orders; and

15 determining whether to transfer said output to said first recipient based upon said first set  
of statistics.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

identifying a second recipient of said output;

20 obtaining said second recipient's address information;

determining a number of orders made by said second recipient;

determining a monetary value of orders made by said second recipient;

determining a recency of orders made by said second recipient;

storing said number of orders made by said second recipient;  
storing said monetary value of orders made by said second recipient;  
storing said recency of orders made by said second recipient; and  
calculating a second set of statistics regarding said second recipient's number of orders,  
said second recipient's monetary value of orders, and said second recipient's  
recency of orders;  
ranking said first recipient versus said second recipient based upon said first and second  
sets of statistics; and  
transferring said output to the higher ranked as between said first recipient and said  
second recipient.

5. A computer program having control logic stored therein, said control logic, when executed, enabling a computer to generate a computer file containing a record received from a computer database, add a field directive to said computer file, and convert said computer file to be compatible with a pagination program to develop an output, said control logic comprising:
  - accessing means for enabling said computer to access said record from said computer database;
  - coding means for identifying said record contained in said computer database;
  - coding means for adding at least one field directive, wherein said field directive provides an instruction to said pagination program to said pagination program directing how said pagination program will format said output;
  - coding means for converting said record into a computer file readable by said pagination program; and

coding means for transferring said computer file to said pagination program.

6. The computer program of Claim 5 further comprising:

coding means to identify a first recipient of said output;

5 coding means to obtain said first recipient's address information;

coding means to determine if said first recipient has a characteristic, said characteristic consisting of at least one of: a bad account, a closed account, a competitor, a prior recipient, a non-orderer, or an undesirable physical location;

coding means to terminate transfer of said output to said first recipient at said address if 10 said first recipient has said characteristic; and

coding means to transfer said output to said first recipient if said first recipient does not have said characteristic.

7. The computer program of Claim 5, further comprising:

15 coding means to identify a first recipient of said output;

coding means to obtain said first recipient's address information;

coding means to determine a number of orders made by said first recipient;

coding means to determine a monetary value of orders made by said first recipient;

coding means to determine a recency of orders made by said first recipient;

20 coding means to store said number of orders;

coding means to store said monetary value of orders;

coding means to store said recency of orders;

coding means to calculate a first set of statistics regarding said number of orders, monetary value of orders, and recency of orders; and  
coding means to determine whether to transfer said output to said first recipient based upon said statistics.

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8. The computer program of Claim 7, further comprising:  
coding means to identify a second recipient of said output;  
coding means to obtain said second recipient's address information;  
coding means to determine a number of orders made by said second recipient;  
coding means to determine a monetary value of orders made by said second recipient;  
coding means to determine a recency of orders made by said second recipient;  
coding means to store said number of orders made by said second recipient;  
coding means to store said monetary value of orders made by said second recipient;  
coding means to store said recency of orders made by said second recipient; and  
coding means to calculate a second set of statistics regarding said second recipient's number of orders, said second recipient's monetary value of orders, and said second recipient's recency of orders;  
coding means to rank said first recipient versus said second recipient based upon said first and second sets of statistics; and  
coding means to transfer said output to the higher ranked as between said first recipient and said second recipient.

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9. A method for converting at least two records stored in a computer database into a computer file readable by a pagination program, by:

finding and retrieving a first record and a second record, each contained in said computer database;

5 adding a first field directive to said first record and a second field directive to said second record that will act as instructions to said pagination program to create a desired output;

analyzing said selected records to determine when said first record and said second record have been obtained from said computer database;

10 generating said computer file from said records;

adding computer code to said computer file so as to make said computer file readable by said pagination program; and

transferring said computer file to said computer pagination program.

15 10. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system for converting at least two records stored in a computer database into a computer file readable by a pagination program, by:

20 using instructions in said computer readable medium to control said computer system to find and retrieve said records contained in said computer database to be converted into said computer file readable by said pagination program;

adding computer code to said records in order that said computer file will have a desired output;

generating said computer file from said records;

analyzing said selected records to determine when all said selected records have been obtained from said computer database; and when it is determined all selected records have been obtained, exporting said computer file to said computer pagination program.

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11. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for converting information stored in a computer database into a computer file readable by a computer pagination program, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the selection of the records contained in said computer database to be converted;

computer readable program code means for causing the sampling said computer database a number of times to obtain said selected records;

computer readable program code means for causing the adding of computer code to said records in order that said computer file will have a desired output;

computer readable program code means for causing the generation of said computer file from said records;

computer readable program code means for causing the analyzing of said selected records to determine when all said selected records have been obtained from said computer database; and

computer readable program code means for causing the exportation of said computer file to said computer pagination program.

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12. A method of converting a record of a first product stored in a computer database into a computer file readable by a pagination program, comprising:

controlling a computer system to create a file template;

controlling said computer program to select said record of said first product from among multiple product records stored in said computer database;

using said file template to add a field directive to said record of said first product, said field directive containing instructions used by said pagination program for formatting an output;

adding computer code to said record of said first product in order to create a computer file that is readable by said pagination program; and transferring said computer file to said pagination program.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said file template further comprises:

a first field directive containing Aframe information, wherein said Aframe information comprises a computer file name of an image stored in said database and associated with said first product, a computer path to said image, and an Aframe identification code;

a second field directive containing table information, wherein said table has instruction used by said pagination program to set the number of columns of said output, the widths of each of said columns, the contents of a header of each of said columns, the contents of a row, a subheading title, closing tags for said table, and a table identification code; and

5 a third field directive containing text flow information, wherein said text flow information comprises said first product's manufacturer, said first product's group, said first product's subheading, said first product's sales point, said first product's features, said first product's Aframe identification code, and said first product's table identification code.

10 14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

15 adding said first field directive, said second field directive, and said third field directive to each of a group of records of at least 20 products stored in said computer database and converting said group of records into a computer file readable by said pagination program.

16 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said computer database is FileMaker® and said

16 pagination program is FrameMaker®.

17 16. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system for adding field directives to a record of a product stored in a computer database readable by a pagination program, by:

20 controlling said computer system to create a file template, wherein said file template contains:

21 a first field directive containing Aframe information, wherein said Aframe information comprises a file name of an associated image stored in said

database, a path to said associated image, and an Aframe identification code;

5 a second field directive containing table information, wherein said table information comprises a number of columns of said output, widths of each of said columns, contents of a header of each of said columns, contents of a row, a subheading title, closing tags for said table, and a table identification code; and

10 a third field directive containing text flow information, wherein said text flow information comprises said product's manufacturer, said product's group, said product's subheading, said product's sales point, said product's features, said product's Aframe identification code, and said product's table identification code;

15 controlling said computer program to select said record;

using said file template to add said first field directive, said second field directive, and said third field directive to said record;

controlling said computer system to select said record contained in said computer database to be converted;

adding computer code to said records in order that said computer file will readable by said pagination program; and

20 transferring said computer file to said pagination program.